

Dr. Reo Leslie, LMFT, LPC, CAC III, MAC, RPT-S. DAACS

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March 21, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

My presentation: I am testifying in favor of HB18-1180

My interest: I am the Director of the Colorado School for Family Therapy founded in 1995. The School is a Private Occupational School regulated and approved by the State of Colorado Department of Higher Education Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS) for the education of mental health professionals (CRS 12-59). In 2005 Governor Owens appointed me as a Professional Member of the Professional Counselors Examiners Board (2005-2006). In 2007 and 2012 Governor Ritter appointed me as the Mental Health Provider Representative on the State of Colorado Commission for Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) I have also served as an expert witness for DORA and the Attorney General's Office (2006 and 2009); and a member of the DORA MFT Professional Development Standards Committee (2010). Our School has educated hundreds of psychotherapists throughout the State since 1995 and our graduates have been elected to the leadership of professional organizations and received appointment by the Governor of Colorado to DORA regulatory boards. I am also the President and the Founder of the multidisciplinary professional organization: The Colorado Mental Health Professionals Association. COMHPA is an advocacy and civil rights organization for the six DORA regulated mental health professions in Colorado.

My testimony: HB18-1180 needs to be enacted into law because it is common sense legislation from the perspective of those of us in the challenging work inherent in the regulated mental health and behavioral health professions. This bill will allow us to get records of dismissed DORA complaints, such as investigative reports, in the same manner as if we are found in violation. **The attached email from DORA sent on December 31, 2014 in response to my inquiry illustrates the point.** The relevant DORA documentation will enable us to update record keeping procedures, improve customer care, advance professional competence mandated in Statutes, understand the decision making process of the regulatory boards and investigators, and meet the generally accepted standards of practice. HB18-1180 will promote transparency and information sharing in dealings between DORA and the regulated professionals they serve. At present; in order to acquire these documents, if the case is dismissed, all counselors must pay the expense of hiring an attorney and seeking a court order. The bill was amended in the House to address concerns expressed by Mental Health Colorado and DORA.

In conclusion: HB18-1180 is consistent with the stated purpose of this and previous legislatures and Gubernatorial Administrations to promote openness, transparency, information sharing, accountability, and disclosure in the business of Colorado State government. The bill also, as both sides of the aisle have articulated as important, helps reduce the power differential between tax paying Colorado citizens and State government entities. Thank you for your time and attention. Please ask me any questions you would like.

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3/12/2018

Re: Report

From: Arcelin - DORA, Jacqueline <jacqueline.arcelin@state.co.us>
To: Leslieinstitute@cs.com <leslieinstitute@cs.com>
Subject: Re: Report
Date: Wed, Dec 31, 2014 9:08 am

Hi Reo,

The Report of Investigation is not public. §12-43-224(4), C.R.S. specifically states that dismissed complaints are exempt from CORA. I can't release any of the information in the case.

Let me know if you have further questions!

Happy New Year,

Jacki

On Wed, Dec 31, 2014 at 8:29 AM, Leslieinstitute@cs.com <leslieinstitute@cs.com> wrote:
Jacki-

Good morning and Happy New Year! Now that 2 out of 3 of the DORA Regulatory Boards has dismissed my Board initiated complaint...is it possible to get a copy of the investigator's report?

Peace, Reo Leslie

-----Original Message-----

From: Arcelin - DORA, Jacqueline <jacqueline.arcelin@state.co.us>
To: Selina Baschiera - DORA <selina.baschiera@state.co.us>; Jacqueline Arcelin - DORA <jacqueline.arcelin@state.co.us>
Sent: Thu, Aug 21, 2014 4:46 pm
Subject: Registered Psychotherapist Board Meeting for 8/22

Hello,

I'm emailing you because you typically attend the BRP meetings. We had a last minute board member cancellation which has left us without a quorum. Because of this we will be cancelling the meeting.

My apologies for the late notice.

Regards,

Jacki Arcelin

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Jacqueline Arcelin
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Colorado Department of
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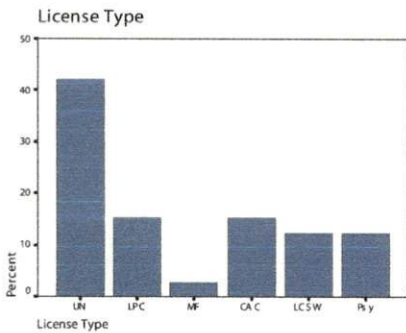
General Sample Characteristics

Number of sanctioned violations during the six-year time period.	235
Gender Distribution.	131 Males (55.7 percent) 101 Females (43.0 percent)
Average age of those receiving disciplinary	49.51 years
Average time span from degree conferral to receiving sanction.	15.64 years
Average number of years from receiving licensure to receiving the sanction.	6.48 years

The most frequent ethical violations include

Standards of Practice	44.3 percent
Dual Relationship	31.5
Competence	20.0
Sexual Contact	18.3
Database Listing Violation	15.7
Confidentiality	13.6
Mandatory Disclosure Violation	12.3

Note that some sanctions were the result of multiple infractions therefore percentages do not equal 100 percent.

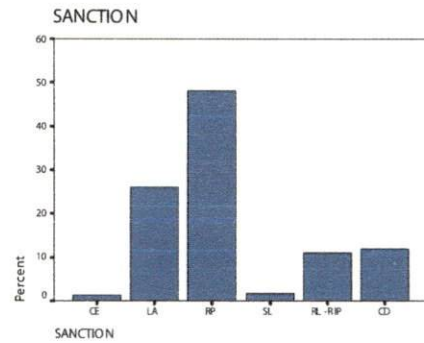


This graph represents the breakdown of disciplinary action by license type.

- Unlicensed (UN) - **42.1 percent**
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) - **15.3**
- Marriage and Family Counselor (MF) - **2.6**
- Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC) - **15.3**
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) - **12.3**
- Licensed Psychologist (Psy) - **12.3**

This graph represents the breakdown of resulting disciplinary actions by the board.

- Continuing Education (CE) - **1.3**
- Letter of Admonition (LA) - **26.0**
- Restricted Practice (RP) - **48.1**
- Surrendered License (SL) - **1.7**
- Revocation of License- Injunction to Restrain Practice (RL-RIP) - **11.1**
- Cease and Desist Order (CD) - **11.9**



The following graphs represent the breakdown of other demographic variables related to the individuals sanctioned for ethical violations.

